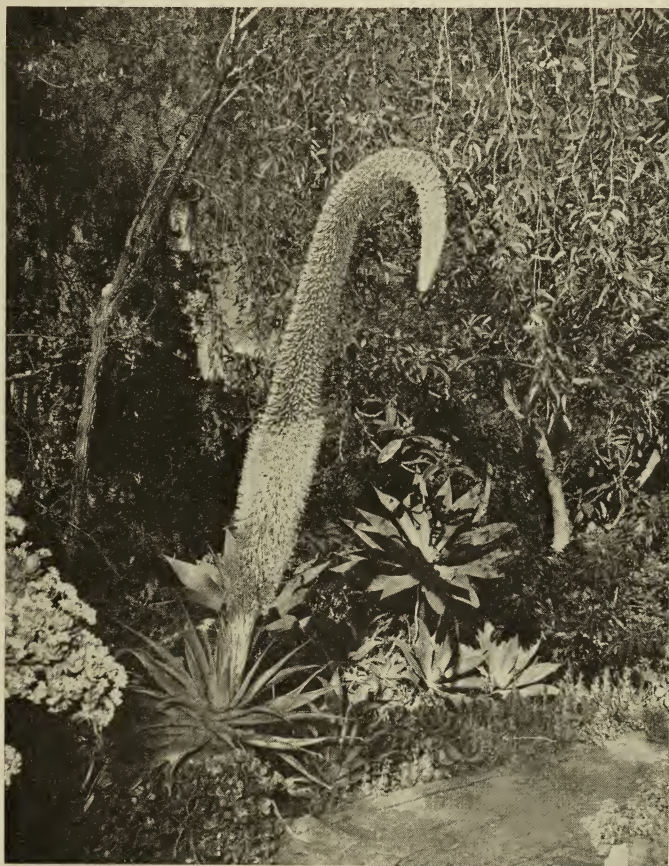


# California GARDEN

FIFTIETH YEAR

WINTER, 1959

VOL. 50, NO. 4



CHRISTMAS SURPRISE—*Agave attenuata* blooming in the garden of Miss Alice M. Greer, 2972 First Ave. (See P. 6) Photograph by George E. Lindsay

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# SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB CENTER

## CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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Floral Building, Balboa Park

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Speakers: Dr. and Mrs. Chester O. Tanner  
 (Illustrated)

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GIVE A SUBSCRIPTION TO CALIFORNIA GARDEN FOR CHRISTMAS



# California Garden

FIFTIETH YEAR

WINTER, 1959

VOL. 50, NO. 4

Members of the Floral Association, who were privileged to hear Dr. Ayres talk on his "color" trees, and to see his pictures of them, will be delighted to have the tree names and facts in print for reference. Those who missed the lecture should be inspired to seek these handsome trees for their homes, or promote them for the parks of San Diego.

## FLOWERING TREES

DR. SAMUEL AYRES, JR., *Chairman,*

*Horticultural Committee, Los Angeles Beautiful*

Colorful flowering trees are usually among the first things to attract the attention of visitors to Hawaii and other tropical vacation lands, who usually return home with color pictures and a wish they could grow some of the things which they have seen. Those home-bound vacationers who are fortunate enough to live in California actually can surround themselves with trees which will produce color every month in the year, yet one would hardly realize it from the scarcity of such plants.

Southern California's climate is not tropical—it is Mediterranean, which means dry summers and mild winters with rainfall and an occasional cold snap with some frost. Strictly tropical trees such as those native to rain-forest areas are not suitable to Southern California, but by judicious selection, it is possible to grow many beautiful trees which rival some of the best which the tropics have to offer.

*Delonix regia*, or as it is sometimes called, the Royal Poinciana or Flamboyant tree, is too tender for this area; but the brilliance of its flaming red can almost be matched by some of the erythrin- as or coral trees which are perfectly hardy for this area. The commonest coral tree and the one which has been in the trade the

longest in California, *Erythrina crista-galli*, is the least desirable of the hundred or more species because of its bushy growth, its long deciduous period, and its bad habit of dying back to its main branches every winter.

There are many highly desirable erythrin- as, however, some of which have been grown in California for years, and others of which are relatively new introductions. *Erythrina caffra* is a large spreading tree from South Africa which blooms in late winter and early spring with clusters of large red flowers. It is hardy near the coast but somewhat tender inland. An excellent planting of them can be seen at Corona del Mar overlooking the ocean.

*Erythrina lysistemon* is also well suited to coastal areas. *Erythrina coralloides* and *Erythrina americana* both from Mexico—the former with a weeping habit, the latter with an upright form—are very showy with spikes of red flowers for at least two months in the spring; and both are moderately frost-hardy. They are deciduous for a short time.

*Erythrina falcata*, a recent introduction from Peru and Brazil, is evergreen, moderately frost-hardy, will attain a height of thirty to forty feet and blooms with large hanging clusters of brilliant red flowers. *Erythrina*

*humeana* from South Africa is a medium-sized tree, deciduous and blooms for two or three months in the fall. *Erythrina umbrosa* from Chile and *Erythrina ovalifolia* from Malaya are two more new introductions which give promise of good performance.

Many people who visit the tropics are fascinated by the so-called "shower trees" or cassias. We cannot grow the tropical species but there have been introduced recently some closely related species from the mountains of Brazil and Argentina which are able to tolerate occasional frosts and even a little snow without damage. Three of these, *Cassia caraval*, *Cassia splendida* and *Cassia multijuga*, bloom for several months during late summer and fall with large spikes of spectacular yellow flowers. A fourth species, *Cassia leptophylla*, which has not yet bloomed in California, is said to have pink flowers.

*Calodendrum capense*\* or Cape Chestnut from South Africa is a fairly large tree blooming during May, June, and July with spikes of pink lily-like flowers. The tree is nearly evergreen.

Several species of acacias such as *Acacia baileyana*, *Acacia pycnantha*, *Acacia decora*, *Acacia saligna* and many others, offer bril-

\* Fine specimen at Brant and Redwood Sts., in San Diego.

liant yellow and gold displays during the winter months.

The eucalyptus group includes many species with showy flowers in a variety of colors and blooming at various times of the year. The common "flaming eucalyptus", *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, comes in shades of crimson, scarlet, orange, and pink, and blooms in mid-summer as well as mid-winter. *Eucalyptus sideroxylon rosea* is tall with a brownish red trunk, gracefully drooping branches, and either red or pink flowers. *Eucalyptus macrandra* blooms in mid-summer with large yellow flowers. *Eucalyptus megacornuta* blooms for four or five months in the fall, winter, and spring with enormous clusters of green flowers. *Eucalyptus erythrocorys* is a medium-sized tree with a smooth white trunk, red buds, and bright, orange-yellow flowers. *Eucalyptus pyriformis* has large red, pink, or cream colored flowers; and *Eucalyptus caesia* is a graceful tree with silky pink flowers in the winter and spring. There are many others which lack of space prevents describing.

*Jacaranda acutifolia* (*mimosae-folia*) from Brazil, is an old favorite with its ferny foliage and its masses of blue-violet flowers during June and July. *Tabebuia*s, which belong in the same family, have recently been introduced but are probably not yet very available. They have large trumpet-shaped flowers in a variety of colors.

*Thevetia nereifolia* from Peru is a handsome small evergreen tree with fragrant yellow flowers resembling the oleander blossom. *Thevetia thevetioides* from Mexico has very large yellow flowers resembling those of the allamanda vine. It is fairly hardy and will thrive in both coastal and inland areas but does not like heavy frost.

*Brachychiton acerifolia*, the "Australian flame tree" and

*Brachychiton discolor*, have red and pink flowers respectively, are tall and stately and are evergreen except when in bloom.

Orchid trees or *Bauhinias* are medium-sized, offering color at different seasons. *Bauhinia variegata* comes in shades of pink, white, or purple, and blooms during the spring. *Bauhinia corniculata* has narrow white to yellow petals and blooms in mid-summer. *Bauhinia blakelyana* or the Hong-Kong orchid tree, will be available in the near future. It has large fragrant purple flowers for about five months during late fall, winter, and early spring.

*Hymenoporum flavum* from Australia is a tall tree related to the pittosporum. It produces a profusion of fragrant, yellowish, jasmine-like flowers in late spring for six or seven weeks which is followed by a brief deciduous period.

For colder areas as well as near the coast, *Albizia julibrissin* or the "silk tree", known in the southern states as "mimosa", offers fern-like foliage and a mid-summer show of pink pom-pom blossoms. It is bare in the winter and will stand considerable frost.

The climax of probably all of the flowering trees which can be grown in this area is *Chorisia speciosa* from Brazil, a close relative of the Kapok tree. Two outstanding specimens have been growing for many years in the Los Angeles area, one a seventy-foot specimen on the grounds of the Bel-Air Hotel and a somewhat smaller one in the rear parking lot of the Automobile Club of Southern

California, at Adams and Figueroa Streets. Many younger trees have been planted recently, and there are at least twenty-five of them on the grounds of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, some of which bloomed last fall when only five years old. These trees are usually in flower for three or four months from September till January. The blossoms are about the size of hibiscus flowers and are in varying shades of pink. They drop most of their leaves while flowering, so the effect is like a big pink cloud.

I have omitted mentioning many beautiful and desirable flowering trees for lack of space, some old-timers and some new introductions. If you have not visited the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, I would suggest periodic visits there because many new plants are being introduced, and some are performing every month in the year.

In the Los Angeles Area there is a ten-year-old organization known as Los Angeles Beautiful, which is a committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Vally Knudsen, this committee is undertaking to transform this community into a clean and beautiful place to live and to visit. Among its current projects are: Downtown tree planting, landscaping abandoned street-car rights-of-way, beautification of industrial and commercial buildings, school planting contests, community anti-litter campaigns, beautifying the new Civic Center and airport, publication of a booklet illustrating flowering trees in

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color in cooperation with the Southern California Horticultural Institute and the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, and many other activities. The planting of flowering trees and shrubs wherever possible has been emphasized. Los Angeles Beautiful would be happy to assist any community in the development of a similar program.

In concluding, I would like to make a plea for the more widespread use of flowering plants, especially trees, shrubs, and vines. It would be a big step forward if San Diego could establish a botanic garden in some such centrally located area as Balboa Park, where such plants could be introduced, studied, and demonstrated to the public. In the meantime the whole aspect of the community could be transformed and beautified if such trees as have been mentioned could be planted in public places such as parks, public and private buildings, along streets as well as on individual front lawns. Flowering trees cost no more to install and no more to maintain than ordinary foliage trees, and at the same time give double dividends of charm and beauty for resident and visitor alike.

After all, tourists constitute one of Southern California's major sources of income and it is only common sense to give them their money's worth. Southern California has for years emphasized its climatic advantages and its differences from the rest of the United States. Flowering trees add an exclamation point to the comparisons.

## Give

# BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

**SWIMMING POOLS.** A *Sunset* Book, by the editorial staff of *Sunset Books*. Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, Cal., 1959. \$1.95

For the owner of a swimming pool, and even more for those whose pools are in the dreaming stage, the new *Sunset Swimming Pools* is a must. The site, size, shape, filter and heating systems are comprehensively discussed, as well as the planting and landscaping, and "poolside structures," which include every thing from snack bars to stoves, baffle screens and fences.

There are also chapters on off-season care, how to entertain (given a pool), and how to form multi-family pool associations, complete with rules. The chapters on pool construction include, I am sure, every facet of this highly technical subject. All departments, from those dealing with construction to the more decorative features of the well laid out pool, are extensively and beautifully illustrated with photographs and cuts.

**GARDENING IN CONTAINERS.** A *Sunset* Book. By the editorial staffs of *Sunset Books* and Magazine. Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, Cal., 1959. \$1.75.

In 1952 *Sunset* published *The Portable Garden*, an invaluable booklet for the pot gardening enthusiast. Now the same authority goes into the ever-fascinating subject even more thoroughly, with

different illustrations — and they are fine ones!

After a discussion of types of containers, and their most expeditious uses (including how to move large filled boxes), there is a section on soil mixes, followed by extensive lists of suitable plant materials, for use indoors, in sheltered patio, and outdoors.

In the outdoor section, the uses of annuals, perennials, trailers, and vines, are severally discussed, with check lists and alluring photographs. Bulbs, succulents, the kitchen pot garden, shrubs and trees, and even Bonsai culture, are well covered in individual chapters.

The house plant section has step-by-step-photographs and a question-and-answer discussion on orchids and philodendrons. The book ends with a typical *Sunset* chapter on how-to-make no less than thirty kinds of plant containers.

A more comprehensive book on its subject cannot well be imagined. If this does not answer the questions of the pot gardener, nothing can.

Alice W. Heyneman

**FRUITS FOR SOUTHERN FLORIDA**, a handbook for the Homeowner by David Sturrock. 186 pages. Southeastern Printing Co., Inc., Stuart, Fla. \$4.00, 1959.

Many of the subtropical fruits are not satisfactorily grown in Southern California, due not so much to frost as to the normal continuation of the colder nights experienced here. This continued effect of chill, gathered during winter, carries along into the growing season so that a susceptible plant on the tropical side just doesn't get started. Nevertheless, many interesting, unusual and flavorful fruits may be suc-

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cessfully cultivated for health and enjoyment in milder areas in the hills and along the coast. There is satisfaction of a basic kind in picking your own fruit, any fruit, and even if you are aware that it is costing more than the store brand—it's fresh. And when it's new or different or even difficult, the pleasure must be increased.

Here is a little book that has just been received. It has been written for Florida and all cultural data points for there, but until as much has been done for California it should serve a very useful purpose for the home owner who will seriously attempt growing these subtropicals in his backyard.

Many of these plants are known and grown here successfully. This is a new and fresh treatment, with up to date cultural information; most subject matter is illustrated with life size pencil delineations that are true and attractive. The frontispiece is a marvel in color printing, one of the best I have seen anywhere. We all know Natal-plum, but have we tried out the newer, selected forms for fruiting? Many of us have known and grown the Kei-apple, but its near relative, the Ceylon Gooseberry, appears to be even better for eating and is especially high in ascorbic acid and carotene. And so it goes, from Cashew-nut, which is not grown here, to Custard-apple which is, and very suc-

## On the Cover

## Agave Attenuata

DR. GEORGE E. LINDSAY, *Executive Director,*  
*San Diego Natural History Museum*

Probably the most popular "century plant" with California gardeners is this graceful, medium sized species from the mountains of Hidalgo, Mexico. The plants tend to clump with a group of graceful stems rising from a single base. Each stem is topped with a growth of elliptical, recurved pale green or gray glaucous leaves. These are entirely spineless, lacking the marginal teeth or even the terminal prickles, which is unique for this American genus.

*Agave attenuata* is not common, but is much sought for use in both modern and traditional garden treatments. The plants are beautiful in color and form, but the surprise comes when a mature ros-

ette suddenly sends forth a narrow, recurved flower stalk, which fairly shoots out, growing at a rate of several inches a day. This stalk may reach a length of twelve or fourteen feet, and as it grows forward a band of opening flowers progresses along its length.

*Agave attenuata* is frost tender, which is the principal limitation of its garden use. It is tolerant of even very poor soils but it does best in a rich, well drained, sunny situation. Plants can be started by removing the young basal offshoots and the inflorescence often produces a great quantity of little "bulbules" or miniature plants, each of which will grow into a beautiful specimen.

cessfully, to Jujube and Sapote, a great cropper.

Roland S. Hoyt

THE GRAFTERS HANDBOOK, by R. J. Garner. Second ed. *Oxford University Press, New York, Feb. 1959. \$5.75.*

This is a well written, easy to read reference book dealing mainly with the deciduous fruit trees. Amateur and professional horticulturists, alike, will find it a comprehensive, and up to date source of information on grafting and the propagation of root stock.

It is well illustrated and indexed; and contains a very good glossary as well as many references to scientific publications.

David R. Roberts,  
Nursery Foreman, Park Dept.

WILDFLOWERS OF THE SANTA BARBARA REGION, text by Katherine Muller, photographs by Campbell Grant. Published by *Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Inc., 1958. 38 pages. \$1.00.*

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden has published here a handsome booklet of the wildflowers of

the Santa Barbara region. Actually, most of these are found throughout Southern California.

Katherine Muller's text identifies simply the flowers by location, size, structure, and color.

Campbell Grant's color photographs are well composed and reproduced.

As an aid in identifying forty-eight of the most-likely-to-be-met wildflowers on any spring sortie, this booklet is certainly recommended.

Janet H. Richards

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## THINGS OLD, THINGS NEW

LARRY SHARP

Mr. Larry Sharp, a graduate of McGill University, a professional horticulturist and an ardent gardener, gives us the fresh viewpoint of the newcomer to subtropical regions.

As an Easterner who has worked and lived in climates ranging from Eastern Canada to the Carolinas and Virginia, with a rather long stop in New Jersey, I am inclined to approach San Diego County gardening conditions with an inquiring and somewhat critical eye. I have always been dedicated to creating gardens, both for myself and for others, and I didn't lose my fervor simply by crossing the continent. But it should be said here and now that one must learn new ways of gardening quickly, or face crushing disappointment, even disaster. Having abandoned two full-fledged gardens made for my own pleasure, and being now in the process of creating a new and wholly different one for my home in the Point Loma area, I find comfort in the fact that experience in former gardens has taught me a great deal.

Working as I do for a commercial nursery and landscape firm, I have the advantage of appraising new plants rather quickly after their introduction. It may be of interest to mention a few:

**Rocket, or Sentinel Snapdragon** is a new hybrid strain that grows about four feet high, with immense spikes of flowers. Very vigorous, and reputedly disease resistant, it is now available in a full range of colors.

**Bauhinia "Hong Kong"** is a recent introduction to commercial nurseries. It is a tree-like shrub of sprawling nature, with much larger leaves than the conventional form, and has striking flowers of burgundy rose. It requires full sun and especially good drainage.

The small plants give little indication of their eventual character.

**Camellia "Sparkling Burgundy,"** a prize winner for 1960, is a Sasanqua, with the typical growth habit of this tribe. Vivid wine-rose flowers are double; plants are vigorous and rather upright in habit. As the Sasanquas have always been among my favorite camellias, it is a pleasure to see this class receive an award it justly deserves.

Turning from things new, there are a few old plants available in most nurseries, whose good qualities and unusual character recommend them highly. They are seldom asked for, and the fact that they are sold is the result of conscientious effort on the part of knowledgeable salespeople and designers. The following are worthy of note:

**Osmarea burkwoodi**, a hybrid between *Osmanthus delavayi* and *Phillyrea decora*, seems to grow beautifully here, and is worthy of wider use. This plant is one and a half to two feet tall, with shiny green leaves about three inches long, and creamy white flowers, intensely fragrant, in terminal clusters. Under some conditions the habit of growth is noticeably weeping. Culturally, it requires about the same soil type as camellias, preferably with morning sun, and afternoon shade. Having seen it endure the rigors of existence in a gallon can for several months, my respect for this plant has greatly increased.

**Pellea falcata** is well known to fern lovers, but it is surprising that it is not more commonly used. It is one of the few ferns that makes a ground cover, spreading quite rapidly by rhizomes; height about a foot, foliage very glossy and almost holly-like. Seems to grow equally well in heavy shade or filtered sun. In my garden it has prospered in direct sun for most of the day. Must have extra good drainage.

**Ophiopogon jaburan** is a hand-

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some evergreen plant, with grassy green, or green and white foliage about a foot tall. The keel-like flowers are borne in summer on arching stems and are quite long lasting. The fruits, if and when they set, are like dark blue berries. It grows well in the shade, but also seems happy in my garden in full sun.

**Oxera pulchella** first came to my attention when I visited San Diego several years ago. I grow more and more impressed with its wonderful qualities. It is a large growing vine, woody, with rather slender shining foliage, attractive at all seasons of the year. The flowers are creamy white, tubular, and borne in large drooping clusters over a long period. I have not noticed its reputed fragrance in my own specimen which flowered profusely in filtered sun the second year from planting. Apparently it enjoys particularly good drainage.

## Beginning

# A History of Balboa Park

ROBERT L. HORN

Balboa Park has been aptly described as the City of San Diego's "Crown Jewel". The history of how this world-famous gem was literally carved, even blasted, out of an arid wilderness of spreading mesas and rugged canyons predates the official dedication by almost 200 years. The ultimate dedication may well have been the greatest act of foresight in the City's history.

In 1789 the reigning Spanish monarch initiated a land survey to further the establishment of Pueblos in California. The survey placed "Real Property" in three categories, one of which (ejidos) included "communal lands held by the people in common for pasturage and for recreational purposes." Because the site for what is now Balboa Park was later selected from lands in this category, the Park is one of the oldest tracts of land in the United States designated for public recreational use. The title to these communal lands was transferred to the United States under the terms of the treaty ending the Mexican War in 1848, and in turn to San Diego when it became a City in the Fall of 1850.

Altogether the newly chartered City probably owned 50,000 acres of undeveloped Pueblo Lands. As rapidly as the City lands could be surveyed and laid out in lots, hundreds of acres were auctioned off with prodigal generosity which often netted as little as seven cents an acre. Luckily the large tract of open land now occupied by Balboa Park had not yet been laid out into lots. Its boundaries were already defined by private lots on the north, south and west, where

**CALIFORNIA GARDEN is proud to have permission to present this story of San Diego's priceless possession—Balboa Park—to the garden public, who will most appreciate the labor and research and genuine interest that have produced it. This is the first installment of the History of Balboa Park, prepared by Robert L. Horn, Project Manager of Harland Bartholomew and Associates, Developers of the new Master Plan for Balboa Park.**

**We are sure our readers will look forward to a continuation of this History in the Spring issue.**

the less rugged land lent itself more readily to development. This promiscuous doling out of the Pueblo lands continued until the late 1860's.

"Then in contrast to the opportunistic attitude of welcoming any chance to unload the Pueblo Lands which had been regarded as a liability, there developed an entirely different idea. This was to provide San Diego for all time with a specialized kind of park designed to meet a particular kind of need, a need which the experience of large, rapidly growing cities of the 19th Century had proved to be of great importance. The park's purpose was to provide opportunity not merely for outdoor physical activities of a recreational sort (which is possible on small pieces of land conveniently and economically distributed throughout the city) but for combining such activities with the refreshing effect of spacious, country-like landscape surroundings, or scenery, contrasting with ordinary congested urban conditions."\*

The idea of creating such reservations was the central theme of

the "Park Movement" which had spread from Europe to America, gaining its full momentum from 1850 to 1925. The Movement championed the idea of keeping open a freer and less humanized kind of scenic landscape beauty which would serve as an antidote to the tensions, closeness and noise associated with city living. The scenic beauty was for those city dwellers who had a positive physical and psychological need for it, and who were either unable or unwilling to go farther out than a large public reservation to find it. Another guiding thought was that the establishment of large city parks would assure the preservation of scenic beauty, which would almost necessarily be diminished, altered, or utterly destroyed by the growing pressure of population and rising land values, a kind of beauty, which otherwise, if it were preserved at all, would be in private hands, and closed to the general public. It was expected that the recreation and refreshment of those wearied by the City was to come, at least in part, from the beauty of the surroundings in a refuge where natural uncluttered beauty was emphasized. From a psychological point of view it was suggested that the large park would serve the modern crowded industrialized areas with somewhat of a spiritual purpose, and become the "Cathedral of the City."\*\*

In San Diego the conception of a great country-park-in-the-city was advanced primarily by a foremost member of the Board of Trustees, Ephraim Morse, ably

\*F. L. Olmsted, 1947

\*\*C. M. Robinson in *Modern Civic Art*, 1903



and enthusiastically supported by Alonzo E. Horton. These two transplanted New Englanders — Horton was a Connecticut Yankee — were undoubtedly stimulated by their own memories of small eastern communities which were traditionally built around central Commons or Squares. Further stimulus came from several other influential citizens who had nurtured the same ideas since 1850 and from the action of New York City in the mid-19th Century in spending several million dollars to acquire and clear about 800 acres of built-up land as a site for Central Park, celebrated for its prototype "Greensward" plan.

When Alonzo Horton arrived here from up-state in April, 1867, it is recorded in San Diego County History that: "He trod these shores enfolded in a bright vision of creating something from nothing, of founding a city on the wide wastes sloping to the rims of these twin bays of San Diego. As if his dream had been infallible prophecy he at once began building New Town."

The land for the New Town development now occupied by the Central Business District was acquired by Mr. Horton for practically nothing, in an act of shrewdness and foresight which characterized his life. The election of the Board of Trustees in April 1867 was financed by Mr. Horton as a means to his ends and the minutes of this Board, comprised of Ephraim Morse, Joseph Manassee and Thomas H. Bush record that Mr. Morse presented the following resolution in February, 1868:

"... that the present Board reserve two of the 160-acre tracts of City Lands for the purpose of securing to the inhabitants of the City of San Diego a suitable park."

The resolution was adopted and Trustees Bush and Morse were appointed to select the lands to be reserved. Because there was little enthusiasm for establishing a 320-acre park for 2,300 people, Mr. Bush declined to accompany Mr. Morse on the inspection tour, and Mr. Horton went in his stead. Both Horton and Morse had previously agreed that if San Diego was to have a public park it must be gained through the reservation of some of the remaining acres of City-owned Pueblo Lands before they were all allocated or sold for other purposes.

While on the inspection tour Morse and Horton decided that so much City land was still available that a tract larger than 320 acres could feasibly be set aside. A recommendation was therefore presented to the Trustees that nine quarter sections of 160-acres each be reserved for park purposes; however, before that recommendation could be acted upon by the new Board which took office in April, forty acres in the southwest corner of the southwest section was sold. One Isabelle Carruthers purchased the tract in March for \$175.00 or approximately \$4.40 per acre. Because of Mr. Horton's interest and participation in the park project, a not uncommon impression was formed, which still persists, that the park lands were a gift to the City by Mr. Horton.

While "Father" Horton was deeply interested in setting aside the nine pueblo lots as a park site he never had title to any part of the Park. As the founder of Horton's Annex he had freely used his extensive land holdings to influence the improvement and growth of San Diego, generously donating the sites for all church buildings of that time and making every possible effort to have the park reservation effected.

Finally, on May 26, 1868 it was moved by Trustee Schiller and seconded by Trustees Estudillo and Sloane that "lots 1129, 1130, 1131, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1142, 1143 and the vacant part of 1144, comprising 1400 acres, be for a park." This action was later commemorated in 1928 by the erection of a bronze tablet affixed to the west entrance gate of the 1915 Exposition Grounds. Thus by the simple statement reproduced above, "City Park," as it was known until 1910, was created. The land reserved was roughly valued at \$6,000.00. The dedication preceded that of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park by two years and culminated the efforts of the best citizens of San Diego during the preceding twenty years.

The *San Diego Union*, Jan. 1, 1903 reported:

"To insure the permanency of the reservation, a bill was introduced into the State legislature during the 1870-71 session, to this end. The usual legislative dangers attended the passage of the bill, and the friends of the park, after its introduction, discovered that surreptitious efforts were under-

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way to divert 480 acres of the tract from the purpose intended, and open up this area for public sale. At this juncture the heartiest interest was taken by a number of citizens, and the whole City was canvassed for 250 signatures to a petition for the preservation of the entire tract. This petition was signed by practically all of the City's registered voters.

"The bill was pushed through to a final conclusion in its original form on February 4, 1870, and the act declares that these lands (designating the lots by number) are: 'to be held in trust forever by the municipal authorities of the said city for use and purposes of a public park . . . and for no other or different purpose.'\*\*\*

"In December, 1871 another bill made its way into the State Legislature for the repeal of the ratification of the preceding year, with a view to authorizing the sale of City park lands. The best citizens (353 in all) banded themselves together, sent another petition to legislature protesting against the repeal of this act, and asked that any future legislation affecting park and cemetery lands be specially excepted." The original motion establishing the Park, though not recorded as passed by the Board of Trustees, was later upheld by the State Supreme Court.

A decade passed before the first major encroachment was made on

the Park, and then on August 8, 1881, the Board of Trustees granted the New San Diego School District "a certain portion of the City Park" in an ordinance which described a rectangular tract of approximately 8.5 acres located in the south central portion of the Park. The first grade school building was constructed of lumber donated by Mr. Joseph Russ in 1883, and the structure become known as Russ School.

"So far as official grants to the site of the present San Diego High School are concerned, there seem to be none, as the records of the City do not show that the intent of the Trustees in 1881 was ever carried through by legal steps. The occupancy of the ground has been more by negative action than otherwise. In other words it might be said that Russ High School is 'squatting' on Park property, not having any legal title to the land occupied. However, over the years the school has become quite as permanent a fixture as are others whose rights are clearly established by proper elections and ratifications."\*\*\*\*

As the Russ School continued to grow it became Russ High School which now covers a site more than double the size of the original tract.

Another decade elapsed before any major improvements were made in the Park. In the meantime it remained in its completely nat-

ural state. Many nature-minded residents still recall walks through the hollow inclines and narrow gulleys in search of wild flowers such as shooting stars, Spanish violets, lupines, mimulas, mallows, sagebrush, wild buckwheat, adenostema, greasewood, penstemons, hyacinths and large patches of white popcorn flowers.

(To Be Continued)

The Editor,  
California Garden  
Balboa Park,  
San Diego 1, California  
Dear Sir:

I was very pleased to receive the July-August number of the California Garden, being a reprint of the original magazine of fifty years ago.

I think this is a wonderful idea and it gave me much pleasure to read again articles by my old friends, Alfred D. Robinson, Kate Sessions, E. Benard and others.

During the fifty-six years that I have been in business I have subscribed to a number of garden magazines. Many of them have gone by the board but the California Garden has endured through all these years and I hope it will continue to do so for a long time to come.

I am looking forward to receiving the Golden Jubilee number to be published this fall. Wishing you continued success,

Yours very sincerely,  
THEODORE PAYNE

\*\*\*State Statutes

\*\*\*\*Office of the City Clerk



# Leaves From An Observer's Notebook

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

Eyes closed, Henry lay stretched out on the sofa beside a fire of liveoak and apple wood. Our ranch and its Indian caretaker, Hawkeye, had contributed the wood.

Henry sniffed the fire's fragrance every so often, like a puppy in its sleep.

San Diego, our black Cocker Spaniel, suddenly sat up upon his haunches. After a moment of thoughtful consideration he remembered a previous engagement and disappeared into the back reaches of the house. There from the Family Room issued the early evening noise of the young of the neighborhood at play on a Friday night. Chatter, laughter, and music were punctuated by the staccato pings of a ping-pong game in progress.

Henry opened both eyes wide and said emphatically, "The answer is — NO!"

Slightly bewildered by his abrupt and irrelevant remark, I did not want to confess to being out of step. I replied, "I don't agree with you at all."

"I shouldn't think you would," retorted Henry.

This left us just where we

started. I decided to give the whole thing a spin so as to allow Henry a satisfactory opening to clarify his remarks.

Pushing him over I sat down on the sofa beside him, precariously close to the edge. I took his hand, saying, "Now, tell me all about it."

"Well," he began, "you said you wanted a white Christmas tree, and I do not approve."

"You are a traditionalist, I know," I said soothingly. "You want a green tree with the same ornaments on it we have used since Henry F. was a baby."

"Yes, Christmas would not be Christmas without the traditional wax angel at the top of the tree."

"Could we agree on the species of tree we'll use?" I asked, realizing I was already skating on thin ice.

Henry thought a moment and then questioned me in a not-too-promising tone of voice, "Why do you prefer white spruce?"

"My reasons are legion and very logical. First of all, I like the little red tag that assures me that the tree has been cut under conservation rules."

Henry raised his hand in his familiar "Stop" signal. "Sold," he agreed — to my delight.

Not having to put up a fight for the kind of tree I wanted, I floundered about for my next approach.

"Think how beautiful my white, ceramic, Hummel Holy Family would look beneath a white Christmas tree."

Henry took this idea under consideration. "Go on," he said without the enthusiasm I thought a White Holy Family under a white Christmas tree should evoke.

"Now picture a luminous white star atop a white tree — of discreet size — under which is a white Holy Family on a white cloth sprinkled with sparkling white snow."

"Next?" questioned Henry as if testing my ingenuity before saying anything against a white Christmas tree.

"And next I would put small, white candles on it, electric, of course."

I waited for Henry's comment, but getting none, I hurried on, "And as a final touch I would use medium-size silver balls."

"How did the idea of a Christmas tree ever start?" asked Henry, obviously stalling for time before giving me an answer.

"What are you doing, stalling like this?" I demanded. "Is this a sort of invoking the Taft-Hartley law until you decide to give me an answer?"

"Never mind what I am doing. Answer the question ad lib — no time out for research."

From the depths of forgotten memories I began to unearth hidden knowledge. "To begin with, there was a German God named Thor before the days of Chris-

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tianity."

"Never heard of him," Henry said positively. "How does he get mixed up in Christmas?"

"I'm not just sure, but I seem to remember something about a tree being worshipped as Thor's symbol before Christianity took it over for a Christmas tree."

"My book of knowledge says that a Christmas tree began with the Garden of Eden," Henry asserted. "It was originally hung with apples to signify the fruit that Eve gave Adam."

"You would drag Adam and Eve into it, just so you could get in the old joke about, 'What did Adam say to Eve when Eve gave Adam the apple?'"

"What did Adam say?" asked Henry looking all innocence.

"Adam said — 'what? No cellophane?'"

Henry's grin was the acme of self-satisfaction. He said, "Now let's drag Martin Luther into the act. Legend says he tried to capture the outdoor beauty of Christmas Eve and house it."

Being too feminine to let Henry have the last word, I questioned, "Why not let's go back to the Druids?"

"We have too little accurate information about them," spoke the fact-finding Henry. "Let's settle for the fact that the evergreen has always stood for everlasting life, and the Christmas tree is a symbol of this assurance."

"We'll rest the case there," I capitulated. "You can have your green tree."

"No," said Henry, "I prefer a white spruce tree with its white Hummel Holy Family on a white cloth sprinkled with sparkling white snow. And we will have a luminous star atop the tree with its white candles signifying Christ as the light of the world."

"You are so satisfactory," I murmured, patting his hand. But I couldn't help wondering who had had the last word!

# Rose Planting Time

HELEN D. CARSWELL

Chances are many thousands of new rose bushes will be planted in San Diego gardens within the next two months. Because there is a wide range of climate within this area, gardens along the harbor exposed to ocean breezes, inland valleys where summer days may be good and hot, the gardener may expect a variation in the performance of different varieties. Like people, some roses "like it hot, some like it cold". It might be well to take time out to plan the season ahead, before spending rose dollars and to determine something of the likes and dislikes of the roses themselves.

A leading question is, "Why are we planting these roses?" Of many answers, perhaps the first is that we desire a colorful garden with bloom over the longest season possible. Some gardeners want their blooms for cutting, for floral arrangements, for church or for club work. Again, many rosarians study rose judging and identification. To keep up with the newest, they must make room for more bushes, often destroying the best "lines" in their garden design, if they have any. Dedicated rose lovers "test" new varieties to determine their adaptability to the area, and must also make room for more plantings every season. Growing roses for shows is another important reason for plantings. In this case the grower is more concerned with the quality of the individual blooms than with the overall beauty of the garden or the quantity of bloom. It calls, too, for patience and time to give that additional care needed for perfection of growth. Perhaps many new home owners never had a garden before and just have a deep yearning for "roses", without knowing what they seek in a beautiful rose.

Whatever the aim, there is a rose to fill every need. The rose is a very adaptable plant and most varieties grow to perfection in San Diego. In general, the fewer-petaled blooms do well in the cool sections, while the heavy-headed blooms develop to great perfection in the warmer areas.

Of the several types of roses available, *floribundas* are ideal for a colorful garden. There are hundreds of varieties in all colors and sizes, with habits of growth that vary from compact miniatures, wide sprawling types, on up to tall lacy shrubs. The old favorite, shell-pink Betty Prior, makes a mass of color and will grow up to the eaves of the house. Circus, with colors through yellow, buff, pink and bright red, has become an international favorite because of its continuous spectacular bloom, its disease resistance, and its fine form of individual flowers. It makes an excellent hedge. Mlle Cecile Brunner, the Sweetheart Rose, usually grown here in the rampant climbing form, also comes in a small bush form, is a slow grower ideal for hedges, and useful for cutting at all seasons. Little Darling, a small yellow bud flushed with pink, orange and red, is ideal for cutting. It has outstanding glossy, disease resistant foliage. Lavender Girl, a rich lavender colored bloom, on a bushy plant, will please those who want something new and striking. The small full-petaled salmon-pink, Margo Koster, makes a compact border, blooms in heavy clusters all the time, even in winter. Frensham, a deep-scarlet with heavy trusses of bloom, is taller, and a great favorite for colorful hedges. Saraband, one of this season's AARS winners, is a gay, brilliant scarlet-orange with promi-

nent yellow stamens. A low, spreading grower, it makes a striking garden accent, or a patio specimen in a tub, when budded on a short standard. Siren, a fiery scarlet that sparkles and glows, has been compared to a precious ruby. It is noted for its long-lasting substance, is a low compact grower that really stands the heat. The Fairy, with tiny, very double, coral-pink buds in sprays, has a spreading bush, and is a vigorous grower. Two of my own varieties are Vogue and Wildfire. Vogue, a rich cherry color, with high-centered, ovoid buds, opens slowly and lasts well. Wildfire, a bright scarlet with a white "eye", is beautiful for cutting and produces fine heads of bloom, even into the cool season.

**Hybrid teas** account for most of the roses planted in California gardens and are adapted to most rose garden uses. Some growers divide them into two types, exhibition and decorative. The latter lack the fine form of the exhibition type used for shows, but are colorful, vigorous and floriferous, producing a wealth of bloom. The classic show or exhibition rose is often a "shy" bloomer. It has been said of its devotees that they seek it as they would seek the "Golden Apple of Hesperides", and would grow it, even if it produced but one bloom and that on alternate years. To be of show quality a rose must have symmetrical arrangement of petals, and sufficient substance to hold that form. It must not flop open. The center must be pointed, not cupped or "balled". An example of a decorative rose than opens to form a "ball", is Radiance, and an exhibition rose with a high center and symmetrical arrangement of petals is McGredy's Ivory. A Baker's Dozen that combines garden value and show material would include Angel Wings, Capistrano, Chrysler Imperial, Eclipse, First Love, Helen Traubel, Isobel Harkness,

La Jolla, McGredy's Yellow, Mme Henri Guillot, Peace, Sutter's Gold and Tiffany. Of this group some are grown to outstanding perfection in this area; Mme Henri Guillot often brings the remark, "Is that rose real?" Angel Wings has been winning awards for San Diego growers all over the west. First Love displays the standard perfection of "form" for the exhibition rose.

A new Hybrid tea, Garden Party, a 1960 AARS winner, promises to be well suited to the San Diego area. A cross of Peace and Charlotte Armstrong, it combines the classic form of Peace with the high center and long-lasting vigor of Charlotte Armstrong. It has been described as a Peace on a better bush.

A newer type of rose, the **Grandiflora**, a cross of the hybrid teas and the cluster blooming floribundas, combines garden value and home use very well. Producing bloom both in single specimens as well as sprays, they give much color in the garden and yield ample material for cutting for the house. Individual blooms attain the same fine form and show quality as hybrid teas. Being very tall, they have special use in hedges and backgrounds. Their great vigor, disease resistance, and floriferousness, make them especially attractive to the gardener whose time is limited.

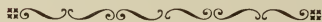


## PLANT A ROSE

*Plant a rose for beauty,  
Plant a rose for health,  
Plant a rose for friendship,  
Plant a rose for "wealth."*

*Beauty for the world to know,  
Health with outdoor-sunshine glow,  
Friendship born of things that grow,  
"Wealth" only roses can bestow!*

From "A Bouquet of Original Rose Verses", arranged by Verona E. Weeks, *Swim and Weeks, Chino, California.*



Carrousel, a dark vivid red, was the first variety to make the Grandifloras popular. Added to its great vigor and continuous blooming, Carrousel is outstanding for its keeping qualities, making it ideal for arrangements, especially in shows where the display must last several days. Buccaneer is a clear bright yellow that holds its color in all weather, and produces for months on end. Montezuma, a glorious, brilliant orange-red, stands much heat and lasts well. Queen Elizabeth, a delicate fresh pink, is a very tall grower, has excellent foliage, and produces quantities of bloom. Starfire is outstanding, having foliage that does not mildew, and vivid, glowing blooms throughout the entire growing season. A new grandiflora that shows great promise is El Capitan. Its bright-crimson, long-stemmed flowers continue right through the heat when many other varieties are slowed down. My favorite grandiflora for cutting is Merry Widow. To date my bushes have not produced clusters of bloom, just single blooms on long very strong stems. It is a velvety crimson, is very fragrant, and is at its best in cool weather. It is the ideal rose for Christmas arrangements.

These three types of roses, hybrid teas, floribundas and grandifloras comprise the main rose plantings in local gardens. However, there are many other interesting fields in the rose world. Col-

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## GARDEN CHORES

Intelligent, well trained, prominent and experienced people are awfully dumb about weed killers. It becomes my solemn duty down where I work at Walter Andersen's to take them by the hand, so to speak, and instruct them minutely about the principles of weed killers and, when they don't mind me, to crack down on them severely. As you can see, this is quite a situation. I don't enjoy it as much as you'd think, because I admire PhD's immensely, and I don't have one myself.

It goes against the grain to holler at a poised, well-integrated individual, "No! Doggonit, why didn't you listen to me? You CAN'T kill those broad leaved weeds with weed killer after you've gone and dug them all out. And you CAN'T kill that Bermuda with Dowpon after you've gone and scraped the foliage all off: *These materials have to do their work through FOLIAGE.*"

So I don't holler at 'em.

But there'll come a day. The next time one of them enunciates most pleasantly, "But I went down several inches and got the roots out", well, that time may be it.

Little do they know about those roots.

A thorough fumigation of the denuded plot doesn't seem to appeal because this takes time and they have only small portions of time for gardening. Usually, this is twice as much as they ever had before coming to San Diego.

But don't let me pick on you too much, PhD's. Part of it is our fault. We don't have enough job training in the nursery business to make garden advice consistent. A well-educated customer, new to all this, may be inattentive to the vulnerable aspects of weeds and grass and may blame the soil for his weeds and cart it off—please, dirt is *not* cheap here! But with the variety of instructions given him it's no wonder he often goes off on his own. Only, come now, let's take time enough to read labels, make notes and recheck. You can catch me off base now and then, though I do try hard to give my best every time.

One more thought. Modern gardening is technical too. Grandma's was also, in a way. She had long-time know-how and that always makes things look simple.

*lecting* the "old" roses, priceless antiques from the gardens of another day, makes an absorbing hobby. One lady I know collects "musical" roses, Helen Traubel, Symphony, Rhapsody, etc., The "History of the Rose Garden" at Descanso, La Canada, California, displays all important, known roses, in historic sequence. Collections of the new lavenders, or the newer tans, would be of interest as the years bring more introductions to these groups. Some of the five-petaled roses, like Dainty Bess,

with its pink waxy petals accented by prominent red stamens, are loved for their great beauty as well as for their garden effect.

Roses may be planted at any time of the year, but *the ideal time is January and February* when the best of the new crop bushes are available as "bare-root" stock. Anyone interested in growing roses in the San Diego area can draw on a great wealth of experience, knowledge and "know-how". The San Diego Rose Society, affiliated with the San Diego

I think we should do lots of thinning in mature plantings these dry times. And these smoggy times. Visited an established garden recently here in town where eucalyptus and Catalina cherries and evergreen pears and elms were doing poorly in a canyon. Also some live oak. The Department of Agriculture tells us that eucalyptus and live oak are suffering from the low water table. Nature thins out in such times.

But in addition to low water table, we have smog and gas fumes from highways. It seems logical that these would settle in the canyons of which we have so many. Thinning out is tedious and expensive, but wouldn't it give better air circulation?

And maybe that Colorado river water is a life-saver, but is doing something bad to our naturalized plantings as the old-timers said it would. In well-watered garden areas, we use soil sulphur; most of our fertilizers now contain sulphur. But the naturalized plantings get none of this and the salts may collect around them. Just a thought.

There is a fine series running in the Times (Los Angeles) home section at this writing of December 1, about climates around your home for tropicals and tender plants. Had a radical demonstration of my own on breeze from the ocean and bay. I'm six miles

Floral Association and with the American Rose Society, meets in the Floral Building in Balboa Park, San Diego, on the third Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m. It is open to all gardeners interested in growing better roses and learning how to exhibit them in a show.

Nothing nourishes the soul and gives courage for the year ahead as much as the dream of a newly opened rose. May your selections bring you great "wealth" of beauty, health and friendship.

inland, but I crave a New Zealand Christmas tree — *Metrosideros*. So when Armstrong nursery sent down some fine one-gallon *M. villosa*, I brought one home when I wasn't watching myself. Put it in a five-gallon can to get strong along with some *Eucalyptus caesia*. *E. torquata*, *E. eremophila* and the new *E. cloeziana* that I'd adopted in their one-gallon baby stage. They were all set out front where a piece of Point Loma sends a breeze across the city to us, behind three tubbed plants if you're wondering how I hide those cans. They grew rather well.

Time went on and there was bulldozing so the cans were moved out back in a hot spot, because those young eucalyptus indicated they liked that air cooling system less and less as time went on. In the hot spot they thanked me generously, particularly *cloeziana*, which gave with more purple leaves and got rid of some brown edged ones that I thought were horrible. *Caesia* thrived magnificently. But I forgot about the New Zealand Christmas tree and it literally cooked before the changing leaves hit my attention.

There was another *M. villosa* in the nursery block so it got out home, somehow. I went around "feeling" breezes out front and set it right in the coolest and breeziest western high point. Real success so far.

Climates are different right around home, aren't they? In many ways. My customers who jiggle things around realize this. The rate of mortality for "jiggling" seems rather low, or maybe they just don't report. Anyway failures are entitled to privacy.

Little things come out in garden class at the nursery which are helpful. One very charming lady has licked the cat problem in flower beds with metal coat hangers. Her husband fashions them into a kind of "wicket", two to a hanger. A wicket is stuck on each side of a

new bedding plant and the cats are downright insulted. They won't dig or roll in such a place. Probably think it's booby-trapped. It's nice to know that some kitty-clawing has been slowed up.

Another intelligent person, new to gardening, recommends a soaker at the top of an iceplant bank for a healthy carpet. Says sprinkling the stuff just browns off a mature mat. By the way, she has that old time catsclaw bignonia (*Doxantha unguis-cati*) started up one of these pure hard pan cuts and the day I saw it, it was putting out tender new foliage and claws up the side of that bare hard bank in a way that was good to see.

Speaking of ice plant, the stuff is beginning to invade many new gardens after having secured the bank on which the homes stand. This is a worthy deed but should go no further. I'm beginning to suggest the old-time corrugated roofing deal they used to control eucalyptus tree roots. Get the roofing 18 to 24 inches wide. Dig a trench almost that deep, set in the roofing so the top edge clears the ground level well enough for you to cut off ambitious ends and even roots and then fill in with gravel if you can. Many people are using block walls for this job, but maybe the above suggestion will help in some instances. No one has said whether the roofing stuff is hard to find or not.

## A Trip for the Holidays

CHAUNCY I. JERABEK

November twelfth marked the date when members of the Floral Association were invited to visit Dewey Kelly in Pauma. Mr. Kelly met us at Rincon Springs and acted as guide up the grade to Palomar Mountain post-office, where we stopped for a picnic lunch under the trees.

From there we took a side road to see a magnificent white fir, *Abies concolor*, and then went on to the State Park picnic grounds where there is an immense *Quercus chrysolepis*, a branch of which was shown in color on the cover of the last *California Garden*.

We visited the Ranger Station, then looped back to an intersection that connected with the famous Nigger Grade, from which we saw many stately pines, firs, spruces, cedars, and oaks. Arrangement enthusiasts had a field day gleaming old roots, bark and dried *Yucca whipplei*.

A by-road brought us to the Kelly ranch of 250 acres. On the way home we had a panoramic view of the verdant Pauma Valley, with many ranch homes among the lemon, orange and avocado orchards. We all agreed that this delightful outing was one others might enjoy during the holiday season.

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